Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : That has also been referred to the Government of India to know whether any help is due to them.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)* : Are these applicants Cochinites ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : Most of them are Cochinites. It is only to Cochinites that money has been advanced so far.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Under what head does the payment come?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)* : Under Advances Recoverable.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)* : Have the Government known that a brahmin evacuee woman was refused any payment because she was living with her father who is unable to support her ?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : Wherever the District Magistrate has reported that there is no need to give any advance, that case has been refused.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : In the cases of advances recoverable are these advances made on security ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : They execute bonds and the amount is paid only in instalments. At the time of each instalment, the District Magistrate reviews of any future instalment is required. Suppose a person is employed after the first instalment, then the second instalment need not be paid to him ard he must repay the first instalment. It is an advance that is recoverable and that is why it is shown under "Advances Recoverable."

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : May I know what the Government would do in the cases which have become actually not possible to recover ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : That question does not arise now.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : It will be recovered by taking proceedings under the Revenue Recovery Act.

KEROSENE OIL—SALES OF—ARTICLE IN THE "SNEHITHAN"

63. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have noted an article by "a citizen" under the caption "മണ്ണെണ്ണയുടെകാര്യം" (The kerosene oil affair) on page 1, in the weekly called "സ്നേഹിതൻ" *(Snehithan)* published on the 15th of Mithunam 1117 ;

(*b*) whether Government be pleased to inform the House their decision on the proposal contained in that article ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Municipal Councils are running kerosene oil depots for retail sales in the several towns except Chittur and Tattamangalam. Government have ordered the sale of kerosene in retail in all the Government Rice Depots wherever there are no Municipalities.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)* : Will the Government be pleased to extend the Panchayats also—at least one kerosene oil depot in each Panchayat ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : The scheme which I have now under preparation for the distribution of kerosene oil is one by which I think I will be able to supply every village. I have issued orders to select two merchants from each village and to fix the number of tins which ought to be supplied to that village. I am arranging for the distribution of tins in this way from the quota which these sub-agents get. If we succeed in that, there will not be any necessity to give a kerosene oil depot to the Panchayats.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)* : When does the Government propose to extend distribution of kerosene oil to the villages ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : It may take a few days.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)* : Have the Government got the quota of kerosene oil ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : Government have not got any quota of kerosene oil.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)* : Suppose the sub-agents refuse to give kerosene oil.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : I do not think any sub-agent will refuse to accept our proposition.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)* : May I know, Sir, whether the Government apprehend that the kerosene oil that will be supplied by the companies will not be sufficient for the consumption of the people ?

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Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : At present there is a reduced quota. If that quota is reduced further and further of course our consumption will have to be reduced.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)* : In view of that apprehension may I know whether it will not be advisable to do propaganda work among the people to have substitutes of fuel oil ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : We are doing it. The Hon'ble Member himself can do it.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)* : May I know, Sir, the principle under which the distribution is made to the various villages ? Is it on the population basis ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : That will depend upon the usual quantity that was consumed by each village. Supposing that to a particular village the sub-agent was selling 5 tins per month and now there is a reduction of quota by 60 per cent it will be that quantity of 5 tins less 40 per cent reduction that will be supplied to that village.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)* : That is the sale during the pre-war period ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : The normal sale before the quota was reduced will be the criterion to fix the quantity to be supplied.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)* : May I know whether there are places where there are no sub-agents ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : In Chowwara I received a complaint that they were not getting kerosene oil. There the supply is made by the Alwaye Agent of these three companies. I have written to the Alwaye agents enquiring as to the number of tins they were supplying before December last. One has replied. I am awaiting the reply from the others.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know whether the new supply is not so pure as before ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : There is no question of adulteration. Before December, they were supplying all high-grade oils. The low grade oil the yellow oil—was not consumed so much in this State as it was consumed in Travancore. Now the supply of high-grade oil has been reduced and the low grade oil is supplied in larger quantities. That is one thing. Now we have to take tins for the purchase of the oil. Originally they were supplying oil in tins. Because the number of tins is reduced you have to take tins now. After one or two fills, the tin becomes rusty and that is also one reason for the discolouration because the rust forms a sediment and it gives a little colour to the oil.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)* : May I know whether the Diwan Peishkar will make enquiries to see that the oil is distributed fairly.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* : I have absolutely no objection, to see that a fair distribution is made, if any objection is raised that this is not the quantity that was previously supplied, I have no objection to do what is necessary.

RICE AND PADDY—QUANTITY TO BE IMPORTED DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS—PARTICULARS OF

64. **Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the quantity of rice and paddy that have been arranged to be imported into Cochin during the next six months ;

(*b*) how many wholesale licenses have been issued for the sale of rice and the names of those to whom all such licenses have been issued ;

(*c*) how many have applied for permits to import rice and paddy ; who are these applicants and what are the dates of their respective applications ;

(*d*) will Government be further pleased to inform the names of the applicants to whom all such permits have been issued for the month of July 1942 ;

(*e*) what is the quantity in each of the above permits issued ;

(*f*) how many rice merchants have left Mattancheri on account of the Excess Profits Tax being levied in the State ;

(*g*) what is the amount of Excess Profits Tax collected from the rice merchants of Mattancheri since this tax was imposed ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)* :

(*a*) No definite figures regarding the import of rice into Cochin State can be furnished now. The quota allowed to be imported from the Madras Province is a joint one for both Cochin and Travancore States together.

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